This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 4 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Curiosity is one of the most permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect. —Samuel Johnson.

WHOLE NO. 1937 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1939. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 29, NO. 46

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Ring Lardner once wrote a classic story called "Some Like Them Cold." The hero grew progressively cooler as the heroine grew progressively warmer. Such a hero is Sidney Hillman.

In October Sidney Hillman was warm, in fact positively hot, for labor peace. In November Mr. Hillman has cooled off.

Let us delve into the mystery of Mr. Hillman's emotional change of temperature. First let's take him when he blew hot. That was just before the C. I. O. convention in October. Mr. Hillman sent out a message to all members of his union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, in which he said:

"National unity of our people is essential if we are to preserve the gains of the past and move forward to new and higher ground. Such national unity requires unity in the ranks of labor. We must spare no effort to secure such a united labor movement. To achieve a unity which will sacrifice none of the gains of the past four years but which will equip the American labor movement with the strength and the fighting spirit and purpose necessary for the performance of the historic task which it faces today."

Without professing to be a Sherlock Holmes, we feel safe in ascribing this fervid plea for peace to the inspiration derived by Mr. Hillman from a visit to the White House. The President was preparing to send peace messages to both the A. F. of L. and C. I. O. conventions. It is reasonable to assume that he made his views known to Mr. Hillman and inspired the latter to espouse them at the C. I. O. convention.

Thumbs Down on Peace

So Mr. Hillman went boldly charging forth toward San Francisco. There he ran into a cold wave known to the labor world as John L. Lewis.

"Peace, Peace," exclaimed Sid. "It's wonderful."

"Nuts," replied John L.

Thus the battle was joined. For two days the struggle went on behind the closed doors of the C. I. O. executive board. And then Lewis threatened to quit. The bluff hit Hillman like an icy blast from the polar regions. He cooled off, hastily, almost desperately. Let us see how his reaction is officially described in the November issue of "The Advance," monthly publication of the Amalgamated:

"He (Hillman) would rather go along with Mr. Lewis, he said, even though he had disagreed with him on certain policies in important matters, than have complete agreement on all points at the cost of losing Lewis' leadership."

So Mr. Hillman now blows just as cold on peace as he blew hot in October. "It cannot be said," declares the article in the Advance, "that the issue of unity within the A. F. of L. greatly agitated the minds of most delegates of the C. I. O. convention." The article then proceeds to give six alleged reasons why the leaders of the C. I. O. are not so keen on peace now. Only the final reason is of any particular importance. So we quote it:

"They (the C. I. O. leaders) don't feel that they are in any sense inferior to the A. F. of L., no matter what the show of per capita payments of affiliated unions may be in any given month, and they are prepared to consider unity when and if it is the unity of equals. The A. F. of L. has not thus far offered them anything approximating unity."

The Key to the Whole Question

There we have it. At last the C. I. O. is being frank. Now we can honestly face the real key to the whole question of unity.

"We are prepared to consider unity when and if it is the unity of equals," says the C. I. O.

By refusing to continue peace negotiations with the American Federation of Labor, the C. I. O. now tacitly admits it is not the equal in strength of the A. F. of L. What is the size ascribed by the C. I. O. to the A. F. of L.? It is too ashamed to say. He wouldn't even tell the delegates to the C. I. O. convention, let alone the public. The delegates got no report on membership or finances from Mr. Lewis. The C. I. O. won't tell the A. F. of L. either. They have rejected every demand made by the A. F. of L. for an independent audit by certified public accountants of the membership—the dues-paid memberships of both organizations.

The reports we receive indicate that the C. I. O. now has no more than one-fourth of the dues-paying membership of the American Federation of Labor. Yet it insists on being treated as the equal of the A. F. of L. is that honest or is it fraudulent? Could the A. F. of L. accept such a basis of negotiations without a complete abandonment of democratic principles and a complete betrayal of the membership of its affiliated organizations? Equals are equals. The C. I. O. never will be the equal of the A. F. of L., it is not now the equal of the A. F. of L. and it never will be.

These are the facts. But Mr. Lewis stubbornly refuses to face the facts. He is determined to keep on the war path. And it has now become evident, even to the doubters, that his determination and his will alone rule the C. I. O. Because the only man in the C. I. O. powerful enough to challenge him, Sidney Hillman, got cold feet and surrendered.

So when President Roosevelt called in William Green and John L. Lewis to the White House last week and asked them to make peace negotiations for the President of the A. F. of L. said "Yes" and the dictator of the C. I. O. said "No."

As Sidney Hillman eloquently declared last October, labor unity is essential to national unity. The President of the United States is fully cognizant of that fact. So he invited Mr. Green and Mr. Lewis to discuss the welfare of the workers and blind to patriotism, can see only his own ambition and continues to ignore the facts. How long can he get away with it?

(Released by the American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service)

Officials of C. I. O. Seamen's Union Labeled Communist 'Fellow Travelers'

Witness Before Dies Committee Describes Curran As Promoter of Sit-down Strike; Bridges Is Charged With Obeying Orders of Communist Leaders.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Recent testimony before the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities by William C. McCuistion and Professor Granville G. Phillips, former C. I. O. Seamen's Union officials, provided startling headlines for the newspapers. In a list of thirty-seven C. I. O. Seamen's Union officials, twenty-eight were identified as Communists or "fellow travelers."

Mr. McCuistion asserted that "the personnel of the New York office" of the C. I. O. Seamen's Union was between 85 and 90 per cent Communist, although the membership in the early part of the 48,000 members of this C. I. O. union were members of or sympathizers with that party.

This control is maintained, he said, because the 1,500 or 1,600 members in New York actually control the elections, and that among them the Communists are able to control a solid group of some 400 sympathizers, including many seamen who ran work as waiters in restaurants or in the fur district."

"Whenever non-Communists are elected by referendum among the whole membership," he said, "they are rendered ineffective by a packed meeting of about 1,500 members in New York."

Phillips' testimony tended to corroborate McCuistion. Phillips, however, asserted that Joseph Curran, union president, had finally taken action to prevent Communist control, while McCuistion declined himself a former Communist who had turned against the party.

The rotten record of Joseph Curran, president of the C. I. O. Seamen's Union, was revealed. Curran, it was said, sailed as a non-citizen mate for fourteen years. He did not become a union member until he could no longer sail as a mate. He then joined with the A. F. of L. Seamen's Union but finally left it to join the C. I. O. Later he signed a contract with the Atlantic shipowners giving preference in employment to union members. Within one year after being forced into the union Curran became the leader of a sit-down strike and a disrupter of legitimate unionism.

McCuistion also told the committee that Harry Bridges, Australian longshoreman and director of the C. I. O. in California, "proved his membership in the Communist party by carrying orders of party leaders." McCuistion said that a "vote of confidence" of the Soviet military intelligence named George Mink to the power behind the Seamen's union also controlled maritime workers.

McCuistion testified that Bridges repeatedly had refused to come to New York to address seamen until Communist leaders decided he should address a Madison Square Garden rally during the 1936 seamen's outlaw strike. The witness said that Bridges addressed the meeting, which was held December 16, 1936.

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LUMBER WORKERS STRIKE

Gogama, Canada (AFLWNS)—It was reported here that 200 men employed in two local camps operated by the Pogoma Lumber Company, on the Canadian side, to enforce the demand for a closer interpretation of the eight-hour day law, have been told that the logs are rolling and the men get no credit, the logs later being counted as lumber. Without lumber into low grade timber.

Green Declares Democracy's Strongest Bulwark Is Greater Voice For Labor

A. F. of L. President, in First Book Entitled "Labor and Democracy," Outlines Achievements of the Organized Workers Through Many Years; Upholds Collective Bargaining and Democratic Procedure as Imperatively Fundamental in Organized Labor's Efforts to Achieve Liberty For Working Men and Women.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declares that the strongest safeguard for democracy in our national life" in a new book entitled, "Labor and Democracy," published by the Princeton University Press.

The book tells the dramatic story of the progress of the American labor movement in the last half century as seen by a man who grew and developed with it. After tracing the early struggles of unions to organize workers, to develop collective bargaining, to supplement union gains with legislative protection of wage-earners and to overcome employer opposition and court injunctions, the book takes up labor's present-day problems in peace and war.

Mr. Green stresses the American Federation of Labor's contributions to the nation's well-being economically, socially and politically. He pictures organized labor as the primary factor in raising the American standard of living, as a stabilizing influence over industry through the spread of collective bargaining, as the spearhead in the drive for social security legislation and as the most powerful protector of American democracy against Fascism and Communism.

In describing the conflict between the American Federation of Labor and the C. I. O., Mr. Green submits a strong brief in support of his contention that real labor involved is democracy versus autocracy in labor.

Of special interest is the book's final chapter dealing with the present war crisis. Democracy, says Mr. Green, "cannot be gained on the battlefield." The very nature of war, he insists, is "hostile to democracy" because emergencies cancel normal liberties.

America's Major Duty Is To Maintain Peace at Home

Therefore, although he admits his sympathies are those in the "avenue of neutral," Mr. Green urges that "we in the United States should maintain strict neutrality in act and in speech with respect to the war in Europe."

After submerging personal convictions to the needs of the times, Mr. Green declares, America's duty is "to do all we can to see this country refuse to traffic in arms and munitions, 'a more practical safeguard for our neutrality would be the adoption of the cash and carry plan. He urges that war profiteering be curbed by the Government and that conscription for service in foreign countries be halted.

But whether in war or peace, the "major obligation we have as a people," he declares, "is to make sure that we fully use the possibilities of democracy and still deny to many industrial workers, through want, the vision of what democracy offers to human beings keeps us loyal, proud to be citizens and strong in spirit," the author says.

Five-Point Program For Preserving Democracy Outlined

To safeguard American democracy, Mr. Green outlines a five-point policy:

1. An intelligent and fair policy in industrial relationships, in Government councils and in all fields of human welfare, coupled with labor's responsibility to keep unions free, devoted to the ideals and practices of democracy and dedicated to the well-being of wage-earners.

2. Collective bargaining on a contractual basis in private or public industry under a peace or a war economy.

3. Adequate representation for labor on all governmental control or policy-making agencies.

4. Strengthening the nation by preventing the causes of social and economic unrest.

5. No Government control over the media of molding public opinion or in the dissemination of information.

Achievements of A. F. of L. During Sixty Years

Declaring the American Federation of Labor has earned the right to its acceptance as a "tried American institution," Mr. Green thus summarizes its accomplishments over a sixty-year period:—through union organization and collective bargaining it has created agencies for justice and progress in the economic field, thus laying a foundation for a democratic way of life; through legislation and political action it has used lawful, Constitutional methods to promote the welfare of all citizens; under all circumstances it has opposed regimentation and arbitrary control and tried to safeguard labor's welfare with the whole of social progress; in the World War it put members served in the military forces and in industry and through the Federation's wartime policies it helped maintain democratic procedure even under war emergency; in the present prosperity it developed unionmanagement cooperation and unionmanagement partnerships; in the world depression the Federation clung to American principles and served as a bulwark against Fascist or Communistic tendencies.

Is Proud to Serve American Federation of Labor

These are some of the reasons why Mr. Green comes to the conclusion that "the American labor movement, with all its shortcomings and imperfections, is the keystone of American democracy" and why he is "proud to be in its service."

The author's interpretation of the labor movement gains significance from the fact that he started out as a boy of sixteen as his father's helper in the coal mines of Ohio and within a short time became active in the miners' union. First he served the United Mine Workers Union in local and district capacities and then was chosen secretary-treasurer of the na-

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GREEN URGES BUYING OF UNION LABEL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington—President William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, issued the following statement concerning the Union Label Christmas gift campaign promoted by the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department:

"Do your Christmas shopping early and don't forget to buy union. The union label on the gift you buy for your friends and loved ones is just as appropriate to the spirit of the holiday season as the Christmas seals on the package in which you enclose them.

"In buying union you are helping yourself as well as your fellow union members. You are promoting the best interests of our country. You are striking a blow at sweatshop labor, child labor and other degrading conditions. And at the same time you have the guarantee that the product carrying the union label which you buy is made in America by skilled union workers under high-standard union conditions.

"So I repeat—look for the union label when you do your holiday shopping."

The Union Label Trades Department is issuing this statement, a Union Label Christmas gift poster and other literature regarding its campaign to urge all members of organized labor, their families and friends, to purchase only union label articles for Christmas gifts.

Pocketbook Workers Express Gratitude To President Green

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

One of the interesting events at Cincinnati, Ohio, during the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor, was the presentation of an engraved resolution thanking President Green of the American Federation of Labor for his efforts and cooperation in the organization and development of the International Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union.

The presentation was made to Mr. Green at a dinner in his honor given by the delegates from the union.

Those who signed the resolution were Samuel Reibill, president of the union, and Samuel Lederman, secretary-treasurer.

MACHINISTS WIN INCREASED WAGES

Ninety-Six Agreements Recently Negotiated Provide Better Pay Envelopes; 72 Contracts Grant Paid Vacations.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The definite advantages which well organized workers enjoy because of their membership in unions are strikingly revealed in the wage increases and other benefits secured by the International Association of Machinists during one recent five weeks' period —July 22 to August 26.

H. W. Brown, Acting International President of the affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, reports that during the five weeks the Association installed 378 renewed and new agreements with employers. Of these 378 agreements, ninety-six carried wage increases and seventy-two included provisions for vacations with pay.

A few of the wage increases, selected at hazard, indicate the improvement in living standards which the machinists are gaining.

Fifteen and 25 Cent Increases In Two California Cities

In San Leandro, California, the agreement with the Scribner Machine Works included hourly wage increases of upwards to 15 cents, establishing a minimum hourly wage rate of 90 cents for machinists.

In Los Angeles and Wilmington, California, the agreement signed with six watertight shops provided for 25 cent hourly wage increases, establishing a minimum hourly wage rate of $1.05 for sheet metal workers, machinists welders and 85 cents for helpers, working foremen to receive a 10 per cent higher rate of pay.

In Terre Haute, Indiana, the agreement signed with Terre Haute Dairy Milk and Ice Cream Company, Inc., granted hourly wage increases of upwards to 18 cents, establishing a weekly wage rate of $37.44 for automobile drivers.

In Des Moines, Iowa, the agreement renewed with the Radio and Electric Service, Inc., provided a $4.70 weekly wage increase, establishing a weekly wage rate of $33.50 for mechanics.

In Irvington, New Jersey, the agreement signed with the Newcomer Transit Company included hourly wage increases of upwards to 30 cents, establishing a minimum hourly wage rate of $1 for working fore-

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A. O. WHARTON RESIGNS AS MACHINISTS CHIEF

Ill Health Compels Veteran Leader to Retire After Having Served as Executive of A. F. of L. Affiliate Since 1926.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Arthur O. Wharton has resigned from the presidency of the International Association of Machinists, because of ill health.

The Executive Council of the Machinists Association accepted his resignation with profound regret. The retirement becomes effective on November 30th.

To succeed Mr. Wharton the council elected Harvey W. Brown, who has been vice president since 1921 and acting president for the past year during Mr. Wharton's leave of absence. Mr. Brown's term will run until a referendum election is held among the membership of the association.

Mr. Wharton is sixty-six years old. He has filled many important positions in the ranks of organized labor and government. In addition to being president of the International Association of Machinists he has been a vice president of the American Federation of Labor since 1934 and a member of the Federation's Executive Council since 1930.

He was elected general chairman of the International Association of Machinists in 1909 and was elected president of the Railway Employes Department of the American Federation of Labor from 1912 to 1918. Secretary of the Interior Lane appointed him adviser to the Railway Wage Commission of January, 1918. William G. McAdoo, director general of railroads, selected him as a member of the Board of Railway Wages and Working Conditions, on which he served as vice chairman and chairman until the Board was dissolved in March 1920, when he resumed his position as president of the A. F. of L. Railway Employes Department. He was appointed a member of the United States Railway Labor Board by President Wilson in 1920, and was reappointed by President Harding for the term 1922-1927. He was appointed president of the International American Conference of Mechanical Experts July 1, 1926, elected president for the term July 1, 1927-July 1, 1928, and was re-elected for every term since then.

He has served for some time as a director of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company. In addition, he was chairman of the committee that negotiated the first standard form of agreement between Southern cotton mill weavers and machinists, boilermakers and blacksmiths in 1917. He was also appointed a member of the National Labor Advisory Board of the National Recovery Administration in 1934, and was made chairman of the WPA Labor Policies Board in 1935.

International Labor Organization Is Labor's Voice For Peace, Green Says

Tells Meeting in Washington to Celebrate Twentieth Anniversary of the First International Labor Conference That the American Federation of Labor Promoted the Establishment of the I. L. O.; Holds That Democracy Must Prevail Throughout the World as the Antagonist of Totalitarian Dictatorships.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A strong defense of democratic governments and institutions of the world threatened by the brutality of Hitler-Stalin-Mussolini dictatorships was made by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor in an address at the dinner held at the Mayflower Hotel here in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the International Labor Office.

Mr. Green traced the influence of the American Federation of Labor in the origin and development of the International Labor Organization from before the Armistice in 1918 until it became an effective world institution for the promotion of improved conditions for working men and women, and in the early days of the A. F. of L. to the I. L. O. through the intervening years.

The text of Mr. Green's address follows:

I esteem it a privilege and pleasure to participate in this celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the first International Labor Conference which was held in the City of Washington from October 29th to November 29th, 1919.

In 1914 the American Federation of Labor at its annual convention in Philadelphia, adopted a resolution introduced by Samuel Gompers demanding that a world labor conference be held to consider the interests of working men and women at the same time and in the same place as the Peace Conference.

Before the Armistice on November 11th, 1918, the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor formulated plans for an international labor conference to determine labor's proposals for the peace treaty. The Council appointed a committee of five consisting of Samuel Gompers, James Duncan, John R. Alpine, Frank Duffy and myself, to represent the Federation at such a conference.

Through the efforts of the American Federation of Labor and other labor organizations functioning in the countries that participated in the war, a Commission on International Labor Legislation was set up under the Paris Peace Conferences in the early part of 1919. Samuel Gompers was named a member of that Commission by President Wilson and was elected chairman.

Mr. Gompers not only directed the work of the Commission that was responsible for the labor chapter of the Peace Treaties, but he succeeded in having included in that chapter the statement of principles which is known as "Labor's Bill of Rights." This statement proclaims that labor is not a commodity; that it has the right to organize and bargain collectively; the right to humane working conditions; and the right to a reasonable standard of living.

A. F. of L. Executive Council Favored the I. L. O.

It was provided in the constitution of the International Labor Organization that the first international labor conference should be held in the fall of 1919. At the invitation of President Wilson it met in Washington, D. C. The United States Secretary of Labor, the late Hon. W. B. Wilson, was chairman at the opening session. Samuel Gompers was designated by the American Federation of Labor as its representative at the Conference.

As indicative of the attitude of the American Federation of Labor toward the International Labor Organization, let me quote from the report of the Executive Council to the Convention of the American Federation of Labor in Cincinnati this year:

> "We heartily concur in the expression of continued support given by our Government to the International Labor Organization and hope that the time of a lasting peace will soon arrive. Until that time, however, we should do all in our power to encourage our Government to continue its support and to cooperate as closely as possible with the International Labor Organization as the most effective instrument for peace in the world today."

Peace among the peoples of the world depends not upon the mere existence of brute force but largely upon the consolidation of the forces of decency. Peace cannot long exist upon a foundation of fear. Peace thrives only in an atmosphere of justice, justice founded upon righteous-

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Workers Education Bureau Performs Many Services For Organized Labor

Major Functions Are to Aid Union Officials in Understanding Their Rights and Duties and to Provide Workers Generally With Adequate Knowledge of the Details of Industry and the Modern Social Structure, Spencer Miller, Director of the Bureau, Says.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The development of the services performed in the interest of organized labor by the Workers Education Bureau of America was historically presented to the recent annual convention of the American Federation of Labor in Cincinnati, Ohio, by Spencer Miller, director of the Bureau. The activities of the Bureau, Mr. Miller said, are centered in two main fields. First, educating adult workers so that they will understand the modern complex system of production and distribution, the place of the workers in that system, and a comprehension of the spiritual forces which dominate the labor movement of today, aiding union officials in acquiring a full knowledge of workers' rights and duties under legislation designed to benefit labor. Taking up the elaborate functions performed by the Workers Education Bureau in this broad field, Mr. Miller said:

Union Officials Trained in Understanding Vital Labor Problems

"How then has our Bureau helped you to translate your will to understand into practice? I reply by the spoken word, the written word, by the recorded word, by the broadcast word, by the visual aid methods and all agencies for the diffusion of knowledge and the increase of understanding. Labor carried forward mass education as well as leadership training; we have interpreted the story of labor both to labor within and to the public without.

"The training of the officers and business representatives of the unions in an understanding of their rights and duties under the vast array of social legislation that has been passed in recent years has become a prior responsibility for all organizations. We have addressed ourselves to that task.

Broad Scope of Rutgers University Conferences

"Over the past three years on the campus of Rutgers University in New Jersey, the State Federation of Labor with the cooperation of our Bureau have brought together leaders of labor of that State in a four-day session each year.

"These conferences are conducted under the most competent University instruction and they have had a dramatic study of those problems which the State Federation finds are of the most vital concern to Labor. In the past nine years we have trained over 1,200 leaders in that State at these conferences. The approval of the State Federation has been complete and enthusiastic and it has received financial support and widespread commendation of this institution. Labor today is better informed and more alert to its tasks in New Jersey because of the Rutgers' Labor Institute.

Michigan, New England and Pennsylvania Institutes Perform Valuable Services

"A similar institute at the University of Michigan for State and local officials under the sponsorship of the State Federation of Labor with the cooperation of the State Board of Vocational Education and the Workers Education Bureau has been equally effective. And the institutes that State testify to the value of such a method of leadership training.

"In New England, where for so many years we have carried on an active educational program, over 900 leaders and representatives from the six States were brought together under the leadership of Director of Organization of the Federation with the cooperation of the State Federation of Labor and our Bureau for a weekend conference last March. It grew not only a new impetus to organization in New England but also brought to the leaders of that section a new contact with the Bureau of information and support within that entire area.

"On the Pacific coast, in the South-

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A. F. of L. Amendments to National Labor Relations Act Lauded by Green

Right of the Workers to Select Their Own Union for Collective Bargaining Is Fundamental, He Declares; Changes in the Act Are Held Necessary to "Save Our Unions from Annihilation by a Prejudiced Board."

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

A strong defense of the amendments to the National Labor Relations Act proposed by the American Federation of Labor and now pending before the United States Senate and House of Representatives was made by President William Green of the Federation during the consideration of the amendments by the 1939 A. F. of L. convention at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The American Federation of Labor proposals came before the convention in the report of the Committee on Resolutions on the report of the A. F. of L. Executive Council, giving the reasons for the A. F. of L. amendments and their status before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor and the House Committee on Labor, both of which held incompleted hearings on the amendments during the first session of the present Congress.

Enactment of Amendments Urged By Resolutions Committee

The convention Committee, after a broad survey of the difficulties which the American Federation of Labor has had in attempting to operate in the face of a Labor Board biased against the A. F. of L., made the following recommendation:

"Your committee therefore recommends that the position of the American Federation of Labor remain unchanged and in all respects be affirmed; that the officers and the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor be directed to continue its efforts to amend the National Labor Relations Act in accordance with the amendments sponsored by the American Federation of Labor which are now pending before Congress.

"Your committee further recommends that emphasis be placed on that amendment which provides for the creation of a new Board with a membership of five, and which provides, further, for a complete overhauling of the present personnel employed by the Board."

Opposition to the A. F. of L. amendments and all other amendments to the Labor Relations Act was expressed by Delegate John P. Burke of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers of the United States and Canada, who voiced the view that "to amend this law is dangerous for the future welfare of the working people of this country."

Although convinced that the National Labor Relations Board "has not been fair in all instances," he believed that "the remedy lies in changing the Board rather than changing the law."

Mr. Burke feared that repealing the law or destroying its effectiveness would result in an offensive being started against A. F. of L. unions by anti-labor groups. "The National Labor Relations Act has not been properly administered," he concluded, "let us continue the fight upon the administration of the Act. But as for the Act itself, let's keep it and keep it in its entirety."

Green Explains and Defends A. F. of L. Amendments

At the conclusion of Delegate Burke's speech, William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, took the floor in order to make an explanation and definite defense of the amendments proposed by the A. F. of L. to the National Labor Act.

"We will fight to the bitter end," he said, "to preserve the Act and keep it intact, preserve its fundamentals, but in doing that we also want to save our unions from annihilation by a prejudiced Board."

The text of Mr. Green's speech follows:

I think perhaps our good friend, Delegate Burke, has taken a somewhat wrong impression. First of all, there is no delegate in this convention who entertains the slightest idea that the National Labor Relations Act should be impaired in any respect whatsoever. This great movement was the sponsor of this Act. It is our A-1. We considered the fundamentals embodied in this Act very carefully before we approved the various sections of the Act, and today we stand as the defenders of the fundamentals of this Act.

Administration of Act Destroys A. F. L. Unions

We told the Senate and the Committee on Labor of the House unhesitatingly opposed to the amendments offered by Senator Burke and others, and we would stand unflinchingly and immovably in our opposition to any such proposals.

Our complaint, therefore, is not against the Act, but against the administration of the Act. Our unions are being destroyed. The appeals of workers who belong to our unions have been denied. We, as the representatives of these workers, refuse to respond to their appeals to help them.

Quotes Leiserson's Charge That Board Majority Makes Arbitrary Rules

Furthermore, the American Federation of Labor has not supplied the criticisms to the administration of the Act. The Board itself has supplied that criticism in a most convincing way. Here is a newspaper article today headed, "NLRB Split on Guild Vote."

The Guild is a C. I. O. organization, I quote:

"Dissenting, H. Leiserson, President Roosevelt's 'trouble shooter' on the National Labor Relations Board today accused the five other members of the Board of exceeding the authority vested in them by the statute in handing down an 'arbitrary' decision favoring the C. I. O." in that plant's election.

"Not only is the Board majority in the decision 'arbitrary,' but he also called it a 'sure device' to help the C. I. O.'s American Newspaper Guild dominate a group of workers where the guild admitted it did not have a majority.

"The decision, which may have important bearing upon the future of the reaching investigation of the Board now being investigated by a Congressional Committee, was handed down in the case of a Boston daily newspaper, the Boston Globe Newspaper Company.

"Board Chairman J. Warren Madden and Member Edwin S. Smith in their decision ordered an election within thirty days among editorial, commercial, building maintenance and certain composing room employes of the newspaper to determine whether they went to be represented by the guild.

"They held that all the workers in the plant with the exception of those already belonging to craft unions should be in the bargaining unit, should be grouped in one bargaining unit. The guild, at a hearing, admitted that it lacked a majority in the commercial department, but asked that it be included in the unit. Leiserson agreed with other departments, it was said, would affect whatever strength the commercial department might have against the guild.

"Madden and Smith said they had made thirty-two such decisions in the past. They held:

'The admitted lack of a majority in the commercial department alone does not preclude our finding the proposed bargaining unit to be appropriate.'

"Dissenting, Dr. Leiserson pointed out that in one case the Board ordered a separate election among commercial employes. He held that such action should also be held in the Boston case, adding:

"'The only difference between the two cases is that in the earlier one another labor organization contended for the right to represent commercial employes. However, if the Board has the authority to merge the commercial employes with the others, as in the present case, it has the same authority whether another organization is contending for the right to represent commercial employes or not.'

"In this case the Board has never with authority to order such a merging in either case."

That is the declaration of Dr. Leiserson. It would be but a small extension of such a decision to the employees of the department and the joining trades departments in these newspapers.

Board Deprives Workers of Right To Select Their Own Bargaining Unit

In the report of the committee asked us to do that and nothing more, and it seems to me it fully meets the requirements of the situation.

CIVIL SERVICE APPEALS COURT URGED BY A. F. L

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Establishment of legislation for the establishment of a Court of Appeals in the United States Civil Service was registered by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio. The plan was brought to the attention of the convention in a resolution introduced by Delegate Joseph Taylor of the Washington State Federation of Labor.

The National Federation of Post Office Clerks," the resolution said, "has as one of its major objectives, the establishment of a Federal Court of Appeals in the Federal Civil Service.

"There is no law in the Federal Civil Service which makes positive provision for granting to Civil Service employes the right of a fair hearing before an impartial body in event of charges leading to dismissal, demotion, or suspension.

"The inadequacy of the existing provisions of law may give rise to arbitrary or capricious action by officials, or cause resort against organizations by intimidation or other unfair labor activities."

In the interest of forwarding this proposed legislation, the resolution instructed "the National Legislative Committee of the American Federation of Labor to draft a bill designed to establish a Court of Appeals in the Federal Civil Service with jurisdiction to make every effort to secure its introduction and passage at the next session of Congress.

In recommending support of the resolution, the Committee on Laws said:

"The establishment of an impartial tribunal with jurisdiction thereon, to hear and decide cases involving the dismissal of Civil Service employes has been an important objective of their organization for many years."

CLARKSBURG LABORERS WIN WAGE INCREASE CONTRACT

Clarksburg, W. Va. (AFLWNS).—A new A. F. of L. local union composed of construction and building laborers signed up employers for a wage agreement granting an increase of from 45 to 50 cents an hour. In addition to increased wages, the members report that they are securing shorter hours and better working conditions as a result of their union membership.

HIGHER WAGE PACT GAINED BY CHAIR WORKERS UNION

Newark, N. J. (AFLWNS).—The American Federation of Labor Chair Workers Union here recently negotiated an agreement with the Essex Chair Company providing for the 40-hour week, a guarantee of 45 weeks' work annually, a seniority system, one week's vacation with pay, time and one-half for overtime, the United States, and the contract was saved because the Supreme Court said

Jurisdictional Dispute Injunctions Menace Labor Union Self-Government

Woll Says the Scheme Undertakes to Override the Government of the American Federation of Labor by Depriving It of the Power to Determine Jurisdictional Questions.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The question of creating a special body by the American Federation of Labor to adjust jurisdictional disputes by the method of arbitration was considered by the 1939 convention of the Federation at Cincinnati, Ohio, in connection with a resolution recommending such action introduced by Delegate Mary E. Ryder of the Trades and Labor Union, St. Louis, Missouri.

In opposing the resolution, Delegate Matthew Woll, chairman of the convention Committee on Resolutions, drew attention to the fact that under the A. F. of L. constitution the power to decide disputes involving jurisdiction is vested in the A. F. of L. conventions and that the entire scheme of government of the American Federation of Labor and the function of the conventions rests on this foundation.

Mr. Woll condemned the use of injunctions to settle disputes by the affiliated unions, with emphasis on the injunction against the officers of the American Federation of Labor and the officers of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, secured by the International Union of the United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers of America issued by Justice T. Alan Goldsborough of the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia in the jurisdictional dispute between the Brewery Workers and the Teamsters Brotherhood.

The text of Mr. Woll's speech follows:

I rise to call attention to a serious situation that is developing in the affairs of the American Federation of Labor, and, as a matter of fact, in all labor organizations federated in character.

The resolution here contemplates that there be created a commission or a committee of one sort or another to determine all jurisdictional questions that might arise between affiliated organizations within the American Federation of Labor.

Jurisdiction Determination Is A. F. of L. Function

The committee's report, of course, is very clear on that subject, in that the committee expresses the opinion that has been entertained by the American Federation of Labor ever since its inception, that the supreme authority in the annals of labor in determining the lines of demarkation as between one and other affiliated organizations rested solely within the councils of labor and as expressed by conventions of the American Federation of Labor.

Yet to our great surprise, several of the Council members, including the chairman of your committee, were served with an injunction wherein these officers, as well as the councils are restrained from interfering or deciding jurisdictional questions.

I trust you have a perusal of the injunction served upon myself, as well as several other members of the Executive Council, including the President and Secretary-Treasurer of this organization.

This is the injunction issued in the case of the Brewery Workers versus Teamsters and the American Federation of Labor.

Judge Enjoins A. F. of L. From Deciding Jurisdictional Disputes

"Now, therefore, it is the judgment of the Court that a permanent injunction should issue against the said defendants, and the said defendants Green, Morrison, Coefield, Wharton, Woll, Bates, Gainer, Brown and Pugnaisez, officers, members and representatives of the American Federation of Labor, and the American Federation of Labor, and Tobin, Hughes, Gillespie, O'Rourke, and Tobin (Floyd), officers, members and representatives of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, are hereby permanently enjoined and restrained from committing the following acts:

"The defendants, Green, Morrison, Coefield, Wharton, Woll, Bates, Gainer, Brown and Bugnaisez, as officers, members and representatives of the American Federation of Labor, and the American Federation of Labor, and each of them, in any manner whatsoever carrying out or seeking to carry out and enforce the action of the 1939 convention of the Federation of Labor, above referred to, purporting to transfer jurisdiction of beer drivers from the Brewery Workers Union (plaintiff), to the Teamsters Union (defendant). In particular, the said defendants named in this sub-paragraph are permanently restrained and enjoined from notifying any employers of beer drivers, central labor bodies, State federations of labor, or other interested parties, of its said action in transferring jurisdiction of beer drivers from plaintiff Brewery Workers' Union to the defendant Teamsters Union."

In other words, if this injunction of the lower courts would ultimately be maintained, then the American Federation of Labor would be absolutely powerless, hereafter to ever determine jurisdictional questions. And may I add that it would likewise prevent the Peace Committee that the President has endeavored to call into existence from adjusting the controversy now existing in the house of labor.

Brewery Workers Action in Using Injunction Procedure Deplored

I merely call attention to the importance of the issues involved in this case, and the reasons for a powerful action and the necessity of safeguarding the right of the American Federation of Labor to maintain its supremacy in determining these questions of jurisdiction. It is incidentally also to express extreme regret that any of the affiliated organizations found it fitting not to bring about within these councils or to abide by the decisions of the convention of the American Federation of Labor in matters of jurisdiction.

I regard this as very dangerous tendency, and here we are as trade unionists, having invented the injunction procedure for years in and years out, and now finding our own organizations going into the courts and adopting methods that we have for years and years condemned, in order to settle their differences as to their rights as well as to the purposes and the decisions of the American Federation of Labor.

I thought it opportune while this question was pending as to where the Federation actually stood, that the councils of labor in determining these questions to point out to you the fallacy of the proposal that is now confronting us and as the result of the action of one of our affiliated organizations.

At the conclusion of Mr. Woll's speech, the convention unanimously non-concurred with the resolution to establish an appeals body to decide jurisdictional disputes.

Barring Graduates of Certain Schools From Federal Service Hit by A. F. of L.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The recent annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, instructed the A. F. of L. officials to continue their efforts to secure the enactment of Senate Bill 1410 designed to abolish the bad practice by Executives of the Federal Government of discriminating against graduates of certain schools in the appointment of lawyers.

This matter was brought to the attention of the convention by the A. F. of L. Executive Council in their report.

"For years," the Council said, "no one could be appointed to a Federal position unless he was a graduate of a school accredited by the Association of American Law Schools and approved by the American Bar Association. This would prevent the appointment of lawyers who had qualified themselves by study outside the schools mentioned, not having the funds to attend college.

"During the discussion on the bill it was pointed out that such men as Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and Abraham Lincoln could not have been appointed to the Federal Government if they were alive today as they had not attended the schools now approved by the Association of American Law Schools or the American Bar Association.

"S. 1610, to remedy this discrimination, passed the Senate without a roll call vote. The bill was reported favorably in the House and it, undoubtedly, will pass in the next session."

In urging that continued efforts be made to secure the enactment of Senate Bill 1610, the convention Committee on Legislation said the bill "is the result of the action of previous conventions of the American Federation of Labor wherein it was pointed out that there is a growing practice among appointing officers of the United States Government to require as a prerequisite to appointment a degree or certificate issued by one of certain specified schools or colleges. By that method many capable applicants for Government positions are automatically disqualified. This is particularly true of workers and children of workers who must secure their educational or other qualifications through their individual efforts and experience, not being privileged, through family finances, to attend higher schools of learning. The recommended enactment of S. 1610 and that the utmost vigilance be exercised to prevent the enactment of a similar nature in reference to all appointments to positions in the Government service."

UTICA FREIGHT DRIVERS WIN WAGE INCREASE PACT

City Wide Agreement Negotiated by A. F. of L. Local Provides for Closed Shop Provision and Hours Reduction.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Utica, N. Y.—The three year agreement signed by the Utica Local of Truck Drivers, Chauffeurs, Helpers and Dock Workers negotiated with employers by the Utica Local of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, A. F. of L. affiliate, provided definitely better wages and hours for union members.

Effective as of Dec. 2, 1939, A. F. of L. organized, the work week was cut from 54 to 48 hours with city drivers getting from 66 to 67 cents an hour; checkers from 59 to 66 cents; package drivers from 61 to 66 cents, and dock workers from 49 to 56 cents. The above rates are on a weekly basis. Time and one-half is to be paid for extra and part-time work; City drivers from 68 to 72 cents; checkers from 70 to 72 cents; package drivers from 70 to 76; and dock workers from 54 to 61. For holidays and double time if worked. Overtime after 54 hours for all employes except dockmen and checkers who receive overtime after the nine-hour day. Strictly closed shop conditions prevail.

Furniture moving contracts have been signed for another year, with drivers getting an increase of four cents an hour, helpers 2 cents, with holidays and a week's vacation with pay. The strictly closed shop prevails together with the forty-hour week and time and one-half for overtime after forty-eight hours.

Limiting Construction Industry Probe To Labor Costs Condemned by A. F. L.

Holds That Federal Inquiry Should Include Cost of Land, Materials, Financing, Insurance, Bonding, and Brokers' Commissions, All of Which Are Important Factors in Building Retardation.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

A strong resolution against the United States Department of Justice and the Temporary National Economic Committee restricting their inquiries into anti-trust practices in the building and construction industry to the cost of labor alone was adopted by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Federal inquiries were brought to the attention of the convention by Delegate John P. Coyne of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor in a resolution which said:

"The Temporary National Economic Committee and the Department of Justice are simultaneously investigating the construction industry to determine the causes of retardation in the cost of construction and to avoid shallow sensationalism, the resolution adopted by the committee concluded as follows:

"That the American Federation of Labor is opposed to any investigation incomplete in its conclusions by reason of the absence of a determination of the costs herein referred to—other than the cost resulting from wages of labor.

"The American Federation of Labor instructs its Executive and Administrative officers to diligently apply effort in behalf of successful opposition to any sensational investigations, locally or nationally, the purpose of which is to confine the public as to the real evils constituting factors in building retardation, as well as to require labor to shoulder the blame for even partial stultification of the building industry when labor is so completely without voice or responsibility in the obstructing practices.

"This convention expresses to the public its genuine eagerness for any and all investigations resulting in the public being told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, regarding the ever present clog upon progress in the building industry, which is so correctly recognized as the barometer of national prosperity."

A. F. L. Opposes Creation of Tribunal To Determine Jurisdictional Problems

Complete Authority Over Such Questions Is Already Vested In Conventions of the American Federation of Labor.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Definite opposition to the creation of a body to adjust jurisdictional disputes by the affiliated unions was expressed by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The subject was presented to the convention in a resolution introduced by Delegate Mary E. Ryder of the Trades and Labor Union, St. Louis, Missouri.

"Frequent labor disputes," the resolution said, "have become a menace and detriment to the organized labor movement, resulting in bitter strife between and among members of time to all involved, this applying to jurisdictional disputes.

"Such disputes and strikes are generally condemned by both the press, the public and the labor movement as a nuisance interfering with the rights of others. We believe it is about time that some remedy be promptly applied to solve this serious problem."

As a remedy for this situation, the resolution urged that the A. F. of L. convention create the "office of High Commissioner or some other adequate means to suppress and eliminate jurisdictional disputes and that no strikes occur or be permitted when a jurisdictional dispute exists until a verdict has been rendered by the supreme authority of the A. F. of L."

In its report disapproving this proposal, the convention Committee on Resolutions said:

"Your Committee is in full accord with the thought that jurisdictional disputes and strikes be avoided until a verdict has been rendered by the proper authority within the A. F. of L. However, this resolution proposes that such supreme authority should rest in a high commissioner, or some other designated body.

"As the conventions of the American Federation of Labor are the supreme authority to decide questions of jurisdiction, and should remain so, your Committee recommends non-concurrence."

The convention adopted the report of the Resolutions Committee.

A. F. of L. Demands That American Citizens Fill Major Positions On Panama Canal Zone

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Pointing out that only a small portion of the many thousands of employes on the Panama Canal Zone are American citizens, the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor adopted a strong resolution designed to remedy in part this evil and assure the employment of more American citizens in all positions of a skilled, technical, clerical, administrative and supervisory nature.

Delegate John P. Frey of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor introduced the circumstances of the employment situation on the Canal Zone in a resolution which said:

"The United States Government has spent vast sums of money for the construction and operation of the Panama Canal.

"Funds are appropriated yearly to provide for operation and maintenance of the Canal.

"At this time employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad approximate 13,000 and of this number 3,000 are citizens of the United States, 5,000 are aliens of Latin-American nations, an approximate ratio of one United States citizen to three aliens.

"There are more than 2,600 aliens in the service of the United States Government in the Canal Zone who are employed in the Army and Navy on the Panama Canal Zone."

"There are now millions of workers in the United States who are unemployed.

"The Panama Canal is an important part of our system of national defense, vastly increasing the sailing radius of our naval vessels.

"Now that a state of war exists, attempts may be made to injure or destroy the Canal. It is therefore essential that all positions of responsibility be filled by American citizens.

"A law (Public No. 391) was enacted in the last session of Congress which, at the request of the American Federation of Labor, was amended to provide for the payment of the prevailing rate of pay and for the employment of American citizens in all positions of a skilled, technical, clerical, administrative and supervisory nature."

In an effort to remedy the evident evils emphasized in the resolution, the convention instructed its officers to extend the provisions of the A. F. of L. amendment "to the operation and maintenance of the Panama Canal, the operation and maintenance of the Panama Railroad, the operation and maintenance of the Panama Railway Steamship Line and other positions occupied by civilians under the Army and Navy on the Panama Canal Zone."

FERTILIZER UNION LANDS PAY INCREASE IN QUEBEC

Quebec, Canada (AFLWNS).—The American Federation of Labor Fertilizer Workers Union in Quebec recently renewed their agreement with fertilizer manufacturers providing for 5-cent wage increases. This new wage increase, added to the one secured last March when the first agreement was signed, raises the total pay boost secured by the union to 4 cents. The new contract runs for two years.

ST. LOUIS FILM STRIKERS OFFERED WAGE COMPROMISE

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLWNS).—Sixty-eight striking members of the union were offered a wage increase of 5 cents an hour to about 300 union members in response to demands for an increase of 10 cents an hour.

The employes involved are ushers, cashiers, ticket takers, janitors, and members of Local 8-2 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Operators, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor.

They are now receiving 35 and 40 cents an hour.

Workers Education Bureau Performs Many Services For Organized Labor

(Continued from Page 1)

land, in Wisconsin, Colorado, in this very State of Ohio as well as in many other sections of the country our Bureau with the help of international unions and State Federations have developed conferences for the training of officers and business representatives on current problems which have been most effective.

"Our Bureau has set up some of these; has cooperated in the conduct of others; has outlined programs for still others and has given an impetus to others.

Central Bodies Have Cooperated

"The Central bodies of the Federation have always been important links in the machinery of the Federation of Labor; their educational function has been increasingly developed by the Bureau with the promotion of material for forums, the planning of special educational hours, or the sponsoring of local study classes.

"During the last year the Baltimore Federation of Labor has been pioneered in the preparation of material on the Social Security Act in combining its activities with the cooperation of the research adviser of the Bureau. In Denver, Milwaukee, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, to mention but a few, lectures on topics of local interest are given from time to time. A number of these bodies have sponsored labor colleges or educational conferences as the best method of meeting their local needs. In much of this we have been consulted.

Leadership Furnished For 30-Hour Week Educational Campaign

"But the Bureau is serving local unions as well. In the City of New York, Local No. 3 of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, one of the largest in the Building Trades numbering upwards of 15,000 members. Under the vigorous leadership of that local it was decided that side by side with their campaign for a 30-hour week, they would launch an educational program for their members. They turned directly to the Bureau for advice. An educational director was employed, a program of study worked out and some 1,127 of the members enrolled in the training course. Of this total number, a large group of 182, started their work in the midst of a torrid New York summer. They carried on without interruption. The results already have been surprising. It is my judgment that this program will pay good dividends for the union and its members. I am sure the impact of the work will be felt in both the building trades and other branches of the labor movement of New York.

Many Educational Pamphlets On Labor Movement Issued

"In addition to the development of these institutes, conferences and classes the Bureau has developed the printed word—aid for local workers. Through our press we have been able to provide working men and women with both brief and detailed interpretative of labor in relation to our political, economic and social development.

Labor's Record in Defense Of Civil Liberties

"Let me illustrate. A year ago I informed you of a research study which we had made about labor's concern for Civil Liberty. I reported to you that labor has over a period of a half century passed on the issue of different and specific resolutions dealing with the question of Civil Liberties. And you added that it be printed at Houston! More than 20,000 copies of that pamphlet have been published and sent to schools, colleges, public libraries, and newspaper editors as a part of the record of labor's achievement. It has been placed in the hands of every organizer of the Federation of Labor as a manual for reference and for speeches.

Labor's Support of Free Public Schools

"This year I present another record as a part of the written word. It is entitled 'Labor and Education,' copies of which will be available for study by delegate. In this pamphlet there is set forth for all to see what has been the record of Labor's support of our system of free public education. It is a glorious record of which every man of labor should be proud. Recently one of the foremost educational leaders in America after examining this report said: 'No other group in this land could compile such a record.' There it is as all who run may read.

"And may I remind you of this fact that long before Horace Mann was urging free schools for the people in the northern states, Labor was a hundred years ago that labor in Philadelphia, Boston and New York were voicing their demands for such a system because they knew that it would not be possible in this land to secure a Government by the people without education of the people. And to more than a century the public schools of this land have had no more consistent friends than labor. If there were no other thing which labor had done in the building of our American Republic for which we should receive credit, their place its service to the cause of public education would be sufficient.

"We have been conscious moreover of the fact that at this juncture in our national life that it is important that labor should be kept informed about current economic changes. Toward that end we have been sending out regularly each month an economic service to all the members of our Bureau, so that they can have a source of factual data upon which to formulate policy. For labor's opinions in the last analysis will be no better than their facts.

Militant Listen to Radio Program

"Nor have we rested with the printed word alone. Today the radio has become a mighty, almost awesome instrument for the diffusion of knowledge. For this reason the staff of the Bureau with the promotion of material for forums, the planning of special educational hours, or the sponsoring of local study classes.

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A. F. of L. Asks 40-Hour Week Without Wage Cut For U. S. Navy Yard Custodial Employes

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor endorsed legislation to protect the wages and reduce the hours of custodial employes in the Navy Yards of the United States Government.

The resolution covering this subject was introduced by Delegate John P. Frey of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department.

The text of the resolution, which the convention adopted, follows:

"Whereas, The Navy Yard wage schedules do not now cover employes in the custodial service; and

"Whereas, These employes were excepted from the general provisions of the Classification Act of 1923, which excluded the skilled trades from the operation of that Act; and

"Whereas, It is now proposed to extend the Classification Act to the field service; therefore be it

"Resolved, That an effort be made to remove these employes from the purview of the Classification Act of 1923 as amended, and that they be placed under a schedule of wages not to exceed the prevailing in Navy Yard service, and to confer upon them the benefits of the 40-hour week without reduction in weekly earnings; and be it further

"Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor in convention assembled endorse the principles of the Ramspeck Bill H. R. 1261, introduced January 3, 1939, and endeavor to secure its enactment"

A. F. of L. Opposes Importation Of Czechoslovakian Shoe Workers

Speed-Up System, Dormitory Housing of Employes and Company-Owned Town Are Included Among Labor Policies of Bata Shoe Company Condemned as "Repugnant to the American Idea of Free Labor."

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Strong condemnation of the importation of Czechoslovakian shoe workers in train employees of the Bata Shoe Company in its American plant and equally strong condemnation of the labor and wage rate policies of the Bata Company as being definitely below the standards in the American shoe manufacturing industry were expressed by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The plan of the Bata Shoe Company was brought before the convention in a resolution introduced by Delegate Henry Ohl, Jr., of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor.

The scheme of the company, aided by imported Czechoslovakian shoe workers, was outlined by the resolution as follows:

"It has been presented to the Forty-seventh annual convention of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor that the Bata Shoe Company of Zlin and Prague, Czechoslovakia, has announced its intention of establishing a shoe manufacturing plant in the United States, whereby the management would be willing to grant certain exceptions to the existing immigration laws;

"That the Bata Shoe Company has made formal application with regard to the United States Immigration Authorities to import 100 citizens of Czechoslovakia, as shoe workers or instructors, for the purpose of training help along the system employed by the Bata Company in the production of boots and shoes;

Company Is Hostile To Organized Labor

"That there is at this time a serious condition of unemployment prevalent in the United States, including an abundance of available highly skilled shoe operators and technicians among that suffering a supply present needs of industry;

"That authentic information from the British Trades Union Congress to the effect that this company, now operating factories in Great Britain, has shown hostile tendencies against dealing with Organized Labor for the redress of grievances and other conditions of employment, which position has been construed in a statement made by Thomas Bata to newspaper representatives';

Company-Owned Town Is Planned

"That it is reported to be the intention of the Bata Company, if they are successful in starting operations in the United States, to build upon the premises a dormitory system of housing the workers for all of the activities of the workers would be subject to this surveillance of company officials, and in all respects would be a company-owned town';

Collective Bargaining And Reorganization

"That 'the Bata plan of determining rates of pay and other conditions of employment is a system imposed by dictatorial policies and not through the democratic principles of collective bargaining by free and independent trade unions';

"That 'the system employed at establishments of Bata plants is highly mechanized through the conveyor system of routing the shoes through the various operations and by reason of the excessive pace used and of mechanical conditions, produces monotony and fatigue and has been responsible for many complaints on the part of the workers';

Work Conditions Are Repugnant To Free Labor

"The establishment of the apparently proposed plant or plants in the United States by the aforementioned Czechoslovakian shoe workers would be because of the present deplorable economic condition of our country, with its accompanying joblessness of many millions of our people, but because the type of plant or plants sought to be established is repugnant to the American idea of free labor.

"The American Federation of Labor from its inception has protested against, and strives for the elimination of domination of the workers through a vicious system of paternalism, which is merely another form of slavery.

Investigation by A. F. of L. Suggested

"The nature of such menacing encroachment as here set forth would affect the standards not only of all of our people, and involves the departmental functions of our Federal Government, and thus warrants the attention of the American Federation of Labor."

In order to ascertain the truth regarding the Bat's scheme and to remedy the detrimental effect on American workers which might result from it, the resolution directed the officers of the American Federation of Labor "to make the necessary investigation of the Bata Company's plan and purpose and take such steps as may be found necessary to prevent an encroachment on our standards."

Mara Hits Importation of Czechoslovakian Instructors

In supporting the proposal, Delegate John J. Mara, of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, said:

"The resolution introduced by Delegate Ohl, of the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, was acted upon at our convention held in June of this year at Toronto, Canada.

"Prior to the adoption of the resolution in our convention I protested to the United States Department of Labor against the importation of the Czechoslovakian shoe workers who were to be sent over here to teach the American shoe workers the Czechoslovakian method of making shoes.

"About twenty years ago Mr. Bata spent seven or eight years in the city of Lynn, Massachusetts, learning the American method of making shoes. He went over to Czechoslovakia and taught the Czechoslovakian workers how to make shoes. Now they want to open a plant in Europe.

"I pointed out to them that we had an abundance of shoe workers in the United States who are qualified to act as instructors. Their reasons for sending these shoe workers over here is to place the American shoe workers in the category of apprentices so they could get them to work at 10 cents an hour.

"I would like to protest vigorously against this importation of shoe workers. I don't know that they can come over now on account of the war situation, but they should not be sent over here, and I would like to have this convention go on record directing to the United States Department of Labor to investigate and call our attention to the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union."

At the conclusion of Delegate Mara's criticism of the Bata Company's policy, the convention unanimously adopted the resolution.

Standard Rate Asked For Navy Yard-Arsenal Employes Temporarily In Supervisory Jobs

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service

Condemnation of the Federal law which refuses to grant proper pay rates to employes on the Panama Canal because of the long period Navy Yards and Arsenals when they are detailed temporarily to positions drawing lower wage rates, was brought out of legislation to remedy this injustice featured a resolution adopted by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The matter was brought to the attention of the convention by John P. Frey, delegate of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department, who introduced the following resolution which the convention adopted:

"Whereas, Existing law prohibits payment of the standard rate to permanent Navy Yards, Arsenals, and on the Panama Canal from receiving the temporary rate of pay when substituting temporarily in supervisory positions; and

"Whereas, This law is particularly objectionable to employes on the Panama Canal because of the long period of time some employes must absent themselves as supervisors without receiving the proper salary for the responsibility taken; and

"Whereas, In all fairness, an employe assigned to a supervisory position should receive the standard wage of the position occupied; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the officers of the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, be requested to make every effort to amend existing law so that employes substituting in higher supervisory positions will receive the wage rate of such position regardless of the length of time occupied."

40-Hour Week Demanded For Panama Canal And Panama Railroad Employes by A. F. of L.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The A. F. of L. has made a 40-hour week without pay reduction to the employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad the subject of a resolution by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The anomaly of barring these employes from the shorter work week now in effect for other Federal employes was presented to the convention by John P. Frey, President of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department, in the following resolution which the convention adopted:

"Whereas, Section 23 of the Independence of Cuba Appropriation Act, 1935, (Panama Canal Amendment), provides a 40-hour week with no reduction in pay for certain employes of the United States Government; and

"Whereas, Employes of the Panama Railroad, not being considered employes of the United States Government, have not been allowed the advantage of the 40-hour week, and

"Whereas, Less than half of the Panama Railroad employes receive the 40-hour week, less than one-third of the total number of employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad; therefore be it

"Whereas, Realizing the limitation placed by implication of the 40-hour work week for all Government employes alike; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the officers of the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, be requested to make every effort to have a shorter work week, not to exceed 40 hours per week, and 8 hours per day, established in fact, applied to all the employes of the Panama Canal and Panama Railroad on the Isthmus of Panama."

ALEXANDRIA CARPENTERS GAIN INCREASED WAGES

Alexandria, Va. (AFLWNS).—The Alexandria Carpenters Local Union of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, A. F. of L. affiliate, increased their wage rate from $1.50 to $1.625½ cents per hour in a new agreement negotiated with employers.

MACHINISTS WIN INCREASED WAGES

(Continued from Page 1)

men, 90 cents for operators, 80 cents for helpers.

$1.06 Minimum Hourly Wage in Newark

In Newark, New Jersey, the agreement signed with the Hoffman Engrave Company provided hourly wage increases of upwards to 26 cents, establishing a minimum hourly wage rate of $1.06 for machinists, $1.02 for auto mechanics and garage welders, and 87 cents for helpers.

In Rochester, New York, the agreement renewed with the Rochester Packing Company, Inc., carried weekly wage increases of upwards to $2.46, establishing new top wage rates of $46 for working foremen, $35 for machinists, and $28 for helpers.

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the agreement renewed with the American Stores Company granted wage increases of upwards to $2 per week.

In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the Duquesne Machine Tool Manufacturing Company granted 25 cents hourly wage increases, establishing a minimum hourly wage rate of 90 cents for auto mechanics.

In Richmond, California, an agreement with the Standard Oil Company provided for hourly wage increases of 6¼ cents to 7½ cents, establishing a minimum hourly wage rate of $1 for machinists, $1.07½ for boilermakers, 75 cents for tool and die makers, 76 cents for helpers, and 87½ to 85 cents for progressmen.

In San Francisco, California, an agreement with seven manufacturing companies provided hourly wage increases of upwards to 20 cents, establishing hourly wage rates of 62½ cents to 85 cents for production workers. Also in San Francisco agreements with three manufacturing companies provided for hourly wage increases of upwards to 10 cents, establishing hourly wage rates of 55 cents to 62 cents for production workers.

In Bridgeport, Waterbury and New Britain, Connecticut, an agreement with the Connecticut Power and Lighting Company carried hourly wage increases of upwards to nine cents.

Good Increases in Chicago and Marion

In Chicago, Illinois, an agreement with the Kelsey Tool Company carried hourly wage increases of upwards to 20 cents, establishing a minimum hourly wage rate of $1.10 for die, tool, gauge, jig and fixture makers and $1.20 for tool and machine hands and special machine builders.

In Marion, Illinois, an agreement with nineteen automobile dealers and garages carried wage increases establishing new top wage rates of $1.25 per hour for automobile mechanics and body and fender men.

In Detroit, Michigan, an agreement with the Majestic Manufacturing Company carried a 10 cents hourly wage increase, establishing a minimum hourly wage rate of 85 cents for machinists and 80 cents for helpers.

An agreement with the Grebe Automobile Company included hourly wage increases of 10 cents, establishing hourly wage rates of 85 cents for body and fender mechanics and 55 cents for body and fender men.

LABOR UNIONS URGE FIRE PRECAUTIONS IN SCHOOLS

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLWNS).—The A. F. of L. Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis adopted a resolution calling on the Board of Education to appoint fire representatives of the St. Louis Fire Chief for improving safety in the public schools. "Every precaution humanly possible should be taken to make the schools as safe as possible," the resolution stated.

"The safety and maintenance of public school safety, the resolution declared, "is the duty of the Central Labor Union represented thousands of parents 'entitled to know their children are guarded from every preventable cause of injury while at school."

$1.25 WAGE RATE GAINED BY PLUMBERS IN MACON

Macon, Ga. (AFLWNS).—The Macon Local of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada, A. F. of L. affiliate, secured a wage rate of $1.25 an hour in the new agreement negotiated with employers.

ANNUAL WAGE PROPOSAL DEFEATED BY A. F. OF L.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio, rejected a proposal in resolution favoring an annual wage system introduced by Delegate John F. Cunningham of Trades and Labor Council, Hamilton, Canada.

"The fluctuation in employment in industry," resolution said, "has brought tremendous hardships upon the working people, resulting in a challenge to our democratic system of government with its freedom of speech, assembly, worship and press, the uncertainty of permanent employment and income is greatly retarding buying power and economic recovery."

As a remedy for this situation, the resolution proposed that the A. F. of L. convention "go on record in favor of a living annual wage," and that the national and international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. "be requested to attempt to negotiate all new agreements with employers for an annual wage based upon their present or improved wage rates."

In its report on this proposal the convention Committee on Resolutions said:

"Your committee is of the opinion that it would be most unwise for the present session of Congress to declare itself in favor of an annual wage system, until a practical plan has been suggested and made the subject of intensive study."

The convention unanimously adopted the report of the committee.

Modifications of the French 40-Hour Week Law by Administrative Decrees

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Editor's Note.—In 1936 the French Parliament, following a general election in which the 40-hour week was an important issue, enacted a forty-hour week statute. Later, when the French Cabinet shifted from Liberal to Conservative, the forty-hour week law was materially weakened by administrative decrees issued in accordance with authority conferred on the Cabinet by the French Parliament.

When Robert J. Watt, International Representative of the American Federation of Labor and a member of the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization, was in Geneva, Switzerland, attending the 1939 International Labor Conference, he made a study of the origin and administration of the French forty-hour week law, including the extent to which it had been devitalized by decrees issued by the French Government. The survey contained in this article describes the conditions that prevailed prior to the declaration of war against Germany. Since the declaration of war, the application of the forty-hour week has been still further limited by so-called "defense laws" enacted by the French Cabinet under authority conferred by the French Parliament. The virtual repeal of the French forty-hour week law by Cabinet decree bolsters one of the weaknesses of organized labor relying on legislative strength instead of economic power to secure improvement in hours of labor and work conditions. A friendly parliament and government is essential to preserving the legislative benefits provided by a friendly parliament and government.

By ROBERT J. WATT

American Federation of Labor Representative on the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization.

THE FORTY-HOUR WEEK IN FRANCE

Hours of work in France are regulated by the law of June 25, 1936, which established the 40-hour week in industry, the 8-hour day, and the 48-hour and 40 minute work week for underground work in mines of all kinds.

The methods of application of the principles fixed by the law are determined by Decree for occupations, industries or categories for the whole of the territory or for an area.

The 1936 basic and far-reaching legislation enacted on July 25, 1936, was modified by a series of Decrees or Decree laws issued between December 1937 and May 1939, all of which Decrees tended to make less rigid and more flexible the methods of application, and particularly those concerning the distribution of hours of work, the making up of lost time and overtime paid for during unusual rush of work.

The most important of these measures modifying the 40-hour law of 1936 were those taken by the Decrees of November 12, 1938, which are effective for three years, those of March 20 which are in force until November 30, 1939, and those of April 25, 1939, which were temporary in character.

Organized Labor Opposed Weakening the Law by Decrees

The Decree of November 12, 1938, maintained the principle of the 40-hour week but established the principle of applying it concerning particularly transport, mines, retail trades, pharmacies, hotels and restaurants, public industrial services, public hospitals, gas and electric plants, etc.

The situation in regard to these industries is approximately as follows.

In all activities except mines and combustibles, hours of work may be carried as far as 46 per week, the hours from 40 to 45 being paid at normal rates. The increase for overtime hours fixed at 25 per cent is only paid from the 46th hour. The number of hours of overtime is not limited and recourse may be had to them by a simple procedure. Undertakings working by the national defense may, without requiring authorization, carry hours of work up to 60 per week.

In all public services, excepting transport, hours of work are fixed at 56 per week without limit of overtime involving any increase in the weekly wages.

Distinction Between "Hours of Work" and "Hours of Duty"

In certain categories of activities a clear distinction is made between hours of work and hours of duty and a number of hours of duty considered equivalent to the normal hours of work fixed. This is the case in the refall trade, pharmacies, hospitals, hotels, restaurants and cafes and for certain employment in the transport industry. The hours of duty vary according to the kinds of occupation and fall in general between 42 and 60.

The full normal hours of work remain fixed at 38 hours and 40 minutes underground and 40 hours at the surface. Overtime is limited to 186 hours per year for underground workers and 192 hours for surface, and paid at an increase of 10 per cent.

The other mines are under a system similar to that of industry in general. In the continuous processes of the various industries, hours of work are fixed at an average of 42 per week by the Decrees of Application of March 20, 1939, and April 25, 1939.

Finally, the Decrees determining the methods of application of the 40-hour week law provide exceptions for hours of work of 1, 2, 3 and 4 hours exceptionally in case of urgent necessity, or for certain categories of workers occupied in intermittent work, in guard duty, and for watchmen, etc.

Government Report on the Results Of the 40-Hour Week Law

According to the report published by the Minister of Finance in regard to the first results of the Three-Year Plan which was applied on November 1, 1938, the average hours of work from November 1, 1938, to March 1, 1939, rose from 39 to 40.3 per cent. In the course of the same period the percentage of workers working more than 40 hours per week increased from 11.7 to 22 per cent, and the percentage of workers working less than 40 hours fell from 17 to 10 per cent.

On May 1, 1939, the average hours of work in industry were 41. The following table gives the distribution of work on May 1, 1939, the percentage distribution of hours worked and the weekly hours of work in certain establishments employing more than 100 persons.

Percentage Distribution of Hours Worked According to the Weekly Rest in Undertakings Employing More Than 100 Persons

	48 hours and more	More than 46 and less than 48	More than 44 and less than 46	More than 40 and less than 44	Less than 40 hours
Activities as a whole	2.04	32.72	34.40	5.52	2.03	1.08
(1) Industry and transport	2.66	27.67	39.43	6.02	2.62	1.40
(2) Commerce, banks, insurance agencies, theatres, liberal professions, etc.		21.48	76.53	1.85	0.14	0.09
(3) Mines		73.09	21.59	3.49	0.01	0.06
Metallurgy	7.47	26.43	55.08	1.05	0.09	1.67
Textiles	1.23	28.50	53.73	9.83	4.69	1.72
Building	3.20	30.48	71.76	4.15	0.38	
Chemical industries	0.49	24.56	24.06	71.03	2.56	0.36	0.50
Transport			6.50	93.50			

Chain Stores Tax Studied by A.F.L.

Inquiry by Executive Council Includes Patman Bill and Existing Industrial Relations Between Chain Stores and Organized Labor.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The social and economic aspects of chain stores, their alleged "attempts to defeat desirable legislation" and their relations with organized labor were referred to the A. F. of L. Executive Council for study by the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The chain store question was brought to the attention of the convention in a resolution introduced by Delegates William J. Bowen, Harry C. Bates, Richard J. Gray, William J. Moran, Thomas H. O'Donnell and John J. Multerer of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union.

Charges Against Chain Stores

The resolution contained the following charges against chain stores:

"There is pending in Congress the so-called Patman Bill, designed to destroy the power of the Chain Store organizations, which have long fought the building trades, forced down wages in factory trades, through the abuse of their immense purchasing power, discriminated against union labeled products, and increased unemployment by driving friendly neighborhood stores out of business.

"Beginning with the Houston Convention of the American Federation of Labor in October, 1938, a lavishly financed campaign has been under way to make it appear that by weight of money, labor had been lined up with the chain store interests in opposition to the Patman Bill, a campaign that has deceived many honest men, some local unions and at least one State Federation by mendacious misrepresentation of labor's actual position on the measure."

Enactment of Patman Bill Urged

To meet these alleged evils, the resolution included the following proposals:

"That this, the Fifty-Ninth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor go squarely on record in favor of the Patman Bill, or any other bill of like import and meaning, to the end that chain store abuses be abated and the country placed squarely on notice that the power and influence of the organization is for such aid.

"That President Green, and the Legislative Committee, be directed to give every possible aid and assistance to any movement in Congress, looking to an investigation of the activities of the chain stores in relation to the various agencies employed by them, in their attempts to defeat desirable legislation."

Committee Recommends Reference To Executive Council

With regard to the charges contained in the resolution and its recommendations, the convention Committee on Resolutions submitted the following report:

"Your Committee is of the opinion that the proper step for the convention to take is to refer this resolution to the Executive Council, with the further recommendation that the Executive Council be instructed to have a study made of the entire industrial relations between chain stores and organized labor."

Bates Claims Chains are Anti-Union; Wants Patman Bill Passed

The principal speech in favor of the resolution was made by Delegate Harry C. Bates of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union, who charged that much of the activity in trade union circles in opposition to the Patman Bill had been carried on by publicity campaigns and advertising agencies. He said that while these campaigns were in operation "complaint after complaint arrived daily against the type of non-union, scab building trades jobbers that were employed on the great majority of the buildings erected and occupied by these chains."

The usual method employed by the chains in the additions or changes to the stores that they occupy, Delegate Bates said, "was to let the work out, bring the stores from the owner and then the owner would let the work out to a non-union contractor. When complaint is made about the employment of non-union building trades workers the local superintendent in the district tells you that the chains have nothing to do with the alterations; or the changes to the building, that they are only leasing the property from the owner, and they have no knowledge as to any of the conditions under which these buildings are being erected or remodeled.

"Only in these cities where the building trades are strong enough by their own economic conditions and union conditions in effect on building jobs, do these chain stores."

With regard to the goods sold by chain stores, Delegate Bates said they sell 80 per cent of the goods imported from Japan and Germany which are boycotted by the American Federation of Labor.

In addition, he charged that the chain store groups have a definite policy for quitting a locality when put out of business.

In view of these charges, which he said were supported by facts, Delegate Bates advocated the enactment of the Patman Bill and opposed the recommendation of the Committee on Resolutions.

Garment Shop Butcher Workmen Have Agreements With Chains; Opposes Bricklayers Resolution

The resolution was opposed by Delegate Patrick E. Gorman of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America. Delegate L. M. Ornburn of the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department, Delegate John A. O'Connell of the San Francisco Labor Council, and Delegate John B. Haggerty of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

Delegate Gorman said the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen have agreements with all the chain stores in the Atlantic and Pacific states, the Safe-Way stores, the First National stores, and the S. S. Kresge Company.

"I think," he asserted, "irrespective of what kind of business we might be engaged in, whether it be large or small, the primary purpose of the American Federation of Labor is to organize them and to secure their standards of wages and working conditions. We, in these chain stores treating with us, signed closed-shop agreements, and it is almost astounding that such a resolution as this would be presented to this convention at this late date."

Ornburn Claims Chains Favor Unions; Opposes Patman Bill

Delegate I. M. Ornburn of the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades Department read a large number of telegrams from union officials throughout the country which, he said, "voiced the fact that the chain store industry is one of the best friends and heaviest employers of the building trades."

He said that two chains for which he had been during the past year expended nearly three and three-quarters millions of dollars for union labor in connection with which one of these chains alone expended $175,000 for union materials."

In addition, he claimed the enactment of the Patman Bill taxing chain stores would not only "increase the cost of living for men, women and children in their capacity as consumers, but would also be a narrow and limit the outlets for union-made commodities, and make infinitely harder the struggle for labor, through higher wages in factory trades, through the abuse of their immense purchasing power, discriminated against union labeled products, and increased unemployment by driving friendly neighborhood stores out of business.

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Meat Cutters Chain Stores Are Anti-Union

Delegate John J. Hara of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union in supporting the recommendation that the A. F. of L. Executive Council make a survey of the chain store question, said that no data "there has not been any digging up of information from the store workers" by the $1000 shoe chain store men in the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union.

At the conclusion of the debate, the convention adopted the report of the

Long-Range Public Works Program Studied by the A. F. of L. Council

Super-Highway System, Flood Control, and Reclamation Projects to Promote Recovery Will Be Examined as Remedial Measures For Unjust Working Conditions Prevailing on W. P. A. Work.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The feasibility of a broad extension of Government public works, including air traffic facilities and safeguards, super-highways, slum clearance, toll control, flooding for improvement agencies, and reforestation projects in the interest of promoting business recovery and employment of the jobless at fair wages will be studied by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in accordance with a recommendation made by the 1939 A. F. of L. convention at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The advisability of this program of public works promoted by the Federal Government was presented to the convention in a resolution introduced by Delegate James A. Taylor of the Washington State Federation of Labor, which declared:

"The present program of the Works Progress Administration seems to fall short of its primary objectives—rehabilitation and recovery—for the following reasons:

Six-Point Criticism of W. P. A. Policy

"First, The W. P. A. worker is becoming dissatisfied because of the stigma with having his or her social and economic standing lowered by a $55.00 a month or less pay check;

"Second, Organized Labor is becoming justifiably concerned with the encroaching of W. P. A. into fields in which labor has always been employed at standard wages and under regular working conditions;

"Third, Many local governmental agencies, such as counties and cities are finding it increasingly difficult to finance W. P. A. projects for which they are required to make approximately a twenty per cent contribution in materials, supplies, etc.;

"Fourth, Communities in need of improvements in which they are well able to promote and finance have failed to go ahead with those improvements in the natural way because of the opposition that sooner or later the W. P. A. would do this work for them without assessment against their respective;

"Fifth, The W. P. A. set-up as it is on a month to month or, at best, Congress to Congress basis, does not permit either the worker or business to project any reasonable plans for their own future against the background;

"Sixth, W. P. A. work supplies a real temptation to support a family on earnings of $55.00 a month, to a great economic asset to the community. He may be able to pay a part of his bills and thereby put that small amount of cash in circulation, but these losses incident to his bills that he cannot pay, such as medical and dental attention, rent and other items that are not provided for, more than offset the economic gains incident to his being able to pay for his family's groceries.

Benefits Violoned From Government Public Works Program

"If there exists a need for a continuing program of governmental 'enterprise' as distinguished from 'relief' sufficient to employ the entire unemployment for workers who are properly qualified, who are willing and able to work, then certainly there is a shortage of a job and diligent in their applications for the jobs which they have been successful in getting it.

"Such a program could and should involve the construction and reconstruction of a super highway system for the nation, flood control and reclamation work where such projects are needed, slum clearance, toll control, financing for improvement agencies, and reforestation and air traffic safeguards, reforestation, proper housing, financing investment agencies, construction and modernization of schools, slum clearance and other social needs in which the government has a legitimate and recognized interest, such program to be set up on a continuing national policy and to involve cooperation on the part of the State and local governments with the Federal Government, such a program to pay standard wages and observe standard working conditions in the communities in which such works are undertaken not to be carried out on the basis of contracts competitively arrived at where this type of project is most likely to be subcontracted or under properly supervised Government forces account work."

The resolution proposed that the American Federation of Labor "endorse a program along the line and use their best efforts to secure legislation to accomplish the intent of this resolution."

The Committee on Resolutions expressed "its full approval of the objective of the resolution," and recommended that it be referred to the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

The convention unanimously adopted the recommendation of the committee.

KANSAS CITY TAXI DRIVERS STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES

Five Hundred Walk Out, Tying Up Practically All Cab Owning Companies.

Kansas City, Mo. (AFLWNS).—More than 500 drivers and all but 35 of Kansas City's 440 taxicabs were affected in the strike called here by the Taxicab Drivers Local of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America, A. F. of L. affiliate. The strike was unanimous after the failure of negotiations extending over two months.

The union asked a $14.35 a week guarantee for its members and a 30 per cent commission on fares over $38 per week.

Under the present scale in the two year contract which expired some weeks ago, the companies pay $12 a week and 35 per cent commission in excess of $43.

The strike was called against 12 concerns belonging to the Taxicab Owners' Association.

CHAIN SHOE STORE WAGE CUTTING HIT

President Mara of Boot and Shoe Workers' Union Charges Multiple Unit Firms with Monopolizing the Industry and Slashing Wages Below Decent Living Standards.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

The shoddy superstructure of anti-union and low wage chain shoe stores was completely blown up and the rotten interior fully exposed by Delegate John J. Mara of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union in an address before the 1939 convention of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Delegate Mara, during the discussion on the resolution favoring the enactment of the Patman chain store tax bill, which the convention referred to the A. F. of L. Executive Council for study, Mr. Mara spoke with a full knowledge of the wage and wage regarding low living conditions imposed on workers by the multiple unit shoe stores.

Starvation Wages Imposed Upon Workers

"There are 9,000 shoe chain stores in the United States," Mr. Mara said. "I am very sorry to say that to date the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union has not been able to organize the factories with the full cooperation and affection for the shoe workers by these chain stores.

"We claim that the chain shoe stores are largely responsible for all of the wage reductions shoe workers were forced to take during the past few years. They monopolize the shoe business. They shop around from town to town to see where they can buy shoes the cheapest. They have to pay the same price for their material as other manufacturers, they have to be made to organize, the factories are taken into the smaller towns and the workers are forced to work for starvation wages.

"Perhaps some of you do not know the way in the purchase of a large number of pairs of shoes. Take a shoe that retails for $6.00. The workers get about $1.75 per pair, or 90 cents of the retail price. The retailer gets 40 per cent, or $2.40 of the retail price. We try to interest some of these large operators in buying shoes from the Union Manufacturers, but they say, 'Your union prices are too high.'

Factory Offered Order Reduction Slash

"I heard the name of a large chain mentioned here. I was in St. Louis two weeks ago and one of the men told me that this company would give a large order to a particular factory there if the workers in that factory would accept 10 per cent off their labor cost. The shoe industry is about 90 per cent labor, and 10 per cent means a lot of money.

"You will find large cut-rates around on chain stores, but they are practically all owned by one company. They have a dozen brands, but they only have one buyer buy all the shoes, and then attach around from one place to another, and in that way they reduce the wages of the workers are reduced.

"I, the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, a complete study of this situation they are going to find that the labor relations between the shoe workers and their employers are not what they are cracked up to be, so far as the shoe industry is concerned, at least.

"I am not going to oppose the recommendation of the Committee, but believe it should be referred to the Executive Council and a complete study made by the Executive Council whether or not some action should be taken to curb the chain stores."

BROADCASTS ANNOUNCED BY YOUTH COMMISSION

Special Problems of Young Men and Women Will Be Discussed Over NBC Network Beginning November 30; Matthew Wall Included Among Speakers for November 27 Broadcast.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Wendell Willkie of the American Youth Commission of the American Council on Education announced that on Monday, November 27, between 9:30 to 10:00 P. M., the Commission, in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company, will present the first in a special group of programs under the general title of:

"The American Youth Commission," the announcement said, "is a non-governmental body formed by agreement by the American Council on Education, a congress of national education associations and institutions, State and municipal departments of education. The Youth Commission is organized as the focal body for activity in the youth problem today. On October 3, the A. F. of L. called an emergency meeting at Washington to consider the Nazi-Soviet pact and the sweeping three particular aspects of the youth problem, i. e., their jobs, their health, their leisure. Hence the program 'Youth in Crisis'."

The following are broadcasts of the "Youth in Crisis" broadcasts:

November 20: Peace and Jobs for Youth—Discussion of the job problems of youth in a war-ridden world, and suggestions for a solution. Guest speakers: Dr. Floyd B. Reeves, Director of the American Youth Commission, and one other nationally known figure.

November 27: The Young and the Strong—American youth are not as weak as they have been pictured. What should be done to insure greater physical fitness for young America. Guest speakers: Dr. Reeves, Director of the American Youth Commission; Matthew Woll, Vice President of the American Federation of Labor; Dr. John Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education.

December 4: Good Schools for All—The States with the largest proportion of school children in their population have less money for schools and educational facilities than those with a smaller proportion. What these children will make up the future citizenry of America. Equal educational opportunities for all a vital part of American democracy. How can this be made a reality? Guest speakers: Dr. W. E. Givens, Executive Secretary of the National Education Association; Dr. Josephine Roche, Director of the Department of Education, National Catholic Welfare Conference; Dr. Zook, President of the American Council on Education.

"The programs will have broad appeal. They will be mainly dramatizations with several minutes given over to discussion.

The programs will be broadcast over the Blue network of NBC (WJZ in New York and vicinity).

International Labor Organization Is Labor's Voice For Peace, Green Says

(Continued from Page 1)

ness and a determination to respect the elemental rights of all mankind.

Wars Result From Injustice

We have come today because justice did not exist among the peoples of the world and because these nations in which some justice existed had not adequately shown their determination to preserve that justice against aggression.

The purpose of those who participated in the formation of the International Labor Organization was to prevent the recurrence of the catastrophe of war through the establishment of standards of economic and social justice throughout the world.

In 1919 the American Federation of Labor, under the inspiring leadership of President Gompers, set forth the principles which were later formulated and consummated not by the genius of a single human alone, but with the full participation of labor representatives of labor organizations in many countries. The wisdom of that plan has been amply demonstrated by subsequent events.

The justice which the founders of the International Labor Organization sought to establish is a legalistic form of human relationship but rather a simple workable framework for the establishment of economic justice.

That is one strong reason why we of the American Federation of Labor wholeheartedly agreed with President Roosevelt's action in sanctioning the return of the United States into the International Labor Organization.

I. L. O. Seeks to Benefit Working People

We recognized in the International Labor Organization a sane, deliberate, constructive organization which made possible open, tripartite discussion, of fundamental economic problems of interest to all. We approved the careful procedure which necessitated, first, consideration of the subject by experts; second, study provided then for expert study by all agencies representing each nation concerned, and third, a further and definite period of time, provided for final recommendations to be given assembly which meets each year.

To us in the American Federation of Labor this procedure guaranteed that no secret and sudden maneuvering would handicap any nation or any group. We appreciated the fact that each delegate would have ample opportunity to report to his constituency. We appreciated the fact that decisions would be submitted formally to each nation for ratification.

The International Labor Organization is not in a stagnation that today economics should be regarded as separate and apart from politics. Since 1919 the International Labor Organization alongside the League of Nations is accepted as a landmark of human progress. It is now a full and complete recognition of the fact that social relationships become of as much importance to political relationships and must be shaped on sound principles made workable by means of human understanding.

The International Labor Organization is a policy-forming agency serving as an instrumentality for the promotion of human welfare and economic justice. It is composed of representatives of labor, management and industry and of the agencies of government.

In its functioning capacity it is a conference of representatives of employers and workers, a parliamentary-like, similar to an arbitration committee which shapes a union contract for labor.

Employers Are Urged To Recognize Labor Unions

Need I tell you how far reaching such an arrangement would ultimately become? Basic wages, hours and conditions of work would be studied, argued and decided upon. National standards would be set—not by 'a law of the jungle,' but by the forces at interest chosen for their ability and integrity.

We, who demanded that the conditions of economic injustice which existed in this country should be remedied by emergency legislation to order to restore equilibrium, knew the dangers inherent in the creation of bureaucracy.

We warned against these dangers and asked employers in their own interest as well as that of labor and the public to join voluntarily with labor in the establishment as quickly as possible of direct collective bargaining between capital and labor. We would have had no need for some of the legislation now in effect if we had been permitted to negotiate voluntary agreements between employers and employes.

We repeat that urgent plea again tonight. We plead with the captains of industry, the leaders of government and the millions of still unorganized workers to establish the processes of organization, collective bargaining and union contracts in place of the otherwise inevitable fixing of standards by the cumbersome and bureaucratic processes of government action.

It is natural that I refer to this subject tonight. Our representatives who serves as a workers' delegate on the Governing Body of the International Labor Organization was a member of the Special Commission appointed by President Roosevelt to study industrial relations in Great Britain and Sweden. Robert Watt has a fine knowledge of the manner in which economic bargaining developed in those nations alongside of but apart from the political, administrative and judicial branches of government.

I. L. O. Voices Opposition To Totalitarian Dictatorships

The International Labor Organization is an embodiment of the economic machinery which must be created in each nation if the evils of totalitarianism are to be repudiated by a people suffering from exploitation under an uncontrolled machine-age capitalism.

The International Labor Organization has been like a candle burning in the wilderness pleading for economic and social justice. Sorry indeed have been the consequences of the world's failure to hear and to heed. That failure is not a cause for despairing, however. Today people in many lands are listening eagerly to hear that voice and to know that it must not be heeded.

For these reasons I earnestly hope that we shall be able even in the midst of war to ask the agency of economic justice to redouble its efforts.

We ask the International Labor Organization to study more eagerly, to study more carefully and guide more vigorously than ever before so that when the time shall end we may together create not an armistice, but an enduring and just peace throughout the length of the world.

The American Federation of Labor intends to maintain a renewed and ever increasing interest in the International Labor Organization and pledges its scientific resources of its confidence in the Director, John G. Winant, and the high esteem in which he is held. Mr. Winant knows workers labor and its problems. As Governor of New Hampshire he brought to the citizens of that State many reforms which they had long sought. As the first Director of the Social Security Board he was the friend of the working men and women and safeguarded their rights.

In days like these when nations are spending billions in a campaign of savagery and destruction of life we must not forget that it is our responsibility to contribute to a world of peace which will yet fulfill the hopes we had in 1919.

In a word to say that the American Federation of Labor continues ready to play its part, to share in the deliberations, to join in the decisions and to help in the tasks which must be undertaken if it is so necessary for the success of the International Labor Organization. We extend congratulations and heartiest felicitations to the International Labor Organization upon the celebration of its Twentieth Anniversary. May it ever serve as an international agency for the advancement of peace, good-will and economic betterment throughout the world.

LADIES' HANDBAG UNION FORMS OSHKOSH LOCAL

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Nathan M. Swartz of the International Ladies' Handbag, Pocketbook and Luggage Workers' Union announced the issuances of a charter to a new local of luggage and trunk workers in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The local carries the number 53. The workers organized in the new local have been employed by the Oshkosh Trunk Company which is one of the oldest and most prominent luggage manufacturing firms in the country. It was stated that the union headquarters has been in many instances forced to buy luggage and trunks which are sold in the many important department stores and by many peddlers and owners of the company, Plotkin Brothers, also own the Dresner Luggage Company of Oshkosh.

Samuel Laderman, general secretary-treasurer of the International Union who also has the supervision of all organization work in the Middle West, recently visited several times in Oshkosh for the purpose of organizing the luggage workers there and on Thursday, October 26, 1939, a meeting of the luggage workers took place where the local officers were elected and were immediately installed in office by Secretary-Treasurer Laderman.

At the same meeting the workers decided to apply to the International for a charter and they stated proper such a charter was already issued to them.

The workers also elected a special conference committee which, together with General Secretary-Treasurer Laderman, will meet with the Oshkosh Trunk Company and the employers in the Washington district and was certified as their bargaining agent.

"The contract was the result of several months of negotiation carried on by Frank B. Fuchs, Fourth Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, A. F. of L. affiliate, recently signed a closed shop agreement with the Waterproof Paper Products Company of Cincinnati, which included wage increases for laborers designated as helpers.

Resolutions Committee referring the entire matter of the chain stores to the A. F. of L. Executive Council for study with special reference placed on exploring "existing industrial relations between chain stores and organized labor."

UNION LABEL CHRISTMAS GIFT BROADCAST, DEC. 5

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—On December 5, I. M. Ornburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, will speak on Union Label Christmas gifts over the National Broadcasting Company's Blue Network from 6:15 to 6:30 P. M. (E. S. T.).

The Union Label Trades Department has asked all affiliated labor Unions to contact each local NBC Blue Network radio station and ask the manager to tune up this important broadcast on the Union Label Christmas gift campaign.

WESTERN UNION SIGNS WIRE UNION AGREEMENT

Contract, Covering 800 District of Columbia Employes, Is the First Agreement Signed by Company With a Bona Fide Labor Union.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Commercial Telegraphers' Union of North America, A. F. of L. affiliate, and the Western Union Telegraph Company signed here the first agreement ever entered into by that company and a bona fide labor union.

In announcing the finalising of the agreement the American Federation of Labor said:

"The contract covers approximately 800 Western Union employes in the District of Columbia. All employes receiving less than $110 a month will get a $5 per month pay increase and a half overtime is provided for work in excess of 42 hours a week.

"The Commercial Telegraphers' Union won a Labor Board election in March among the employes in the Washington district and was certified as their bargaining agent.

"The contract was the result of several months of negotiations carried on by Frank B. Fuchs, Fourth Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, A. F. of L. affiliate, recently signed a closed shop agreement with the Waterproof Paper Products Company of Cincinnati, which included wage increases for laborers designated as helpers.

CINCINNATI FIRM SIGNS BOOKBINDERS' AGREEMENT

Cincinnati, Ohio (AFLWNS).—The Cincinnati Local of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, A. F. of L. affiliate, recently signed a closed shop agreement with the Waterproof Paper Products Company of Cincinnati, which included wage increases for laborers designated as helpers.

Green Declares Democracy's Strongest Bulwark Is Greater Voice For Labor

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tional organization. During this time he also coined two terms in the labor legislature and introduced progressive measures such as a federal workmen's compensation bill and legislation prohibiting certain industrial practices. Gompers' twelfth bill was succeeded in getting adopted. Later Mr. Gompers was elected for ten successive years as a vice president of the American Federation of Labor and upon Samuel Gompers' death in 1924 he was chosen President of the A. F. of L., an office to which he has been annually re-elected since then.

Differed With Gompers On Social Security

Mr. Green discloses that he and Mr. Gompers differed basically on social security legislation. Mr. Gompers was fearful of Government over labor, was unwilling to expand such a legislative program beyond workmen's compensation. Mr. Green held out for the enactment of broad social security program on a national basis and helped materially to bring it about.

This book reveals a striking continuity in the policies Mr. Green advocated for union progress from the time when he first set out to unite miners in' his youth down to his present-day advocacy, as President of the American Federation of Labor, of union-management cooperation.

Democracy and Democracy's record of vigorous union growth under responsible leadership.

WAGE INCREASES GAINED BY BINGHAMTON UNIONS

Binghamton, N. Y. (AFLWNS).—A number of A. F. of L. unions here recently negotiated new agreements carrying wage increases with Binghamton employers. The Binghamton Carpenters Local of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, secured a contract carrying a 25 per cent pay boost. The Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America also secured substantial wage increases for city drivers in their agreements with Binghamton employers.